

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAA-01 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0566

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT EG
SUBJECT: ISLAMIC SOCIETIES' "SUMMER CAMPS"

REF: CAIRO 16968

SUMMARY: SIX HUNDRED MUSLIM STUDENTS AT ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY
DEMANDED CAMPUS SPACE FOR SUMMER CAMP THREE WEEKS AGO. THEY
ALSO DEMANDED LE 2000 FROM UNIVERSITY TO SUPPLEMENT LE 1000
ALREADY RECEIVED FROM MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO
ESTABLISH CAMPS. BOTH REQUESTS WERE REFUSED AND STUDENTS LEFT
CAMPUS WITHOUT INCIDENT. THEY LATER OPENED CAMP (POSSIBLY
FINANCED BY AL IXWAAN AL MUSLIMIIN) AT SEPARATE SITE NEAR
ABU QIR. END SUMMARY

1. DEAN ABOU ZEYD OF FACULTY OF ARTS, ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY,
INFORMED BPAO THAT GROUP OF MUSLIM STUDENTS NUMBER APPROX.
600 ARRIVED ON CAMPUS THREE WEEKS AGO DEMANDING USE OF
GROUNDS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SUMMER CAMP. MUSLIM STUDENTS HELD
CAMPS ON CAMPUS THE PAST TWO YEARS, BUT PRESIDENT EL-HINEIDI
REFUSED TO ALLOW CAMP THIS YEAR. DEAN ABOU ZEYD SPOKE TO
STUDENTS REFUSING THEIR REQUEST AND STUDENTS THEN LEFT
WITHOUT INCIDENT. THEY CAMPED THAT NIGHT IN A DOWNTOWN MOSQUE.

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2. PROF. MOHAMED ABDELLA OF FACULTY OF COMMERCE, ALEXANDRIA
UNIVERSITY (ALSO A MEMBER OF MISR PARTY'S POLITICAL BUREAU
AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND ADVISOR TO FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY) INFORMED BPAO THAT STUDENTS WERE GIVEN
LE 1000 BY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WERE REQUESTING
ADDITIONAL LE 2000 FROM ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY BECAUSE
STUDENTS SAID THEY HAD NO OTHER SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR FIVE

SUMMER GROUPS THEY WANTED TO ESTABLISH. REQUEST FOR LE 2000 WAS REFUSED AND SUGGESTION WAS MADE THAT MUSLIM STUDENTS CONDUCT ONLY THREE SUMMER GROUPS IN CAMPS TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER GOE-SPONSORED YOUTH CAMPS. STUDENTS REJECTED THIS SUGGESTION AND WERE GIVEN SEPARATE SITE NEAR ABU QIR WHERE SEVEN GROUPS WERE CONSTITUTED.

3. ABDELLA SAYS HE HAS NO DOUBT STUDENTS ARE AMPLY FINANCED BY AL IXWAAN AL MUSLIMIIN (SPECIFICALLY BY WEALTHY EGYPTIAN IXWAANIS LIVING IN THE GULF STATES). HE SAYS HE IS QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THESE STUDENTS AS THEY HAVE GIVEN HIM TROUBLE IN CLASS AND HAVE EVEN, ACCORDING TO ABDELLA, PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED TRACTS CASTIGATING HIM AND PRESIDENT EL-HINEIDI FOR THEIR "MODERNIST" TENDENCIES. (PRESUMABLY THESE ATTACKS ARE PARTICULARLY WORRISOME TO ABDELLA BECAUSE OF HIS OPENLY-EXPRESSED POLITICAL AMBITIONS.) HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THESE STUDENTS (WHOM HE TERMS "THE MILITIA" OF THE CONSERVATIVE MUSLIM FACTION UNDER THE CONTROL OF "THE BRAINS," THE IXWAAN) BECAUSE OF THE MILITARY REGIMEN IN THEIR SUMMER CAMPS.

4. ABDELLA DOES NOT VIEW STUDENTS AS IMMEDIATE POLITICAL THREAT (TO HIMSELF OR GOE) BUT HE SAYS MANY HIGH GOE OFFICIALS FEAR THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR RELATION TO THE IXWAAN (WHICH ABDELLA THINKS HAS VERY BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT) AND BECAUSE OF THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF DETERMINING WHAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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STUDENTS THINK ABOUT THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

5. FOR CAIRO: ABDELLA IS LEAVING JULY 25 FOR 45-DAY INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM IN U.S. HE WILL BE IN CAIRO JULY 24 AND WOULD LIKE TO MEET AMB, PAO, AND POLCOUNS IF POSSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE. MCCLELLAND

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